

United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Name of Assigned Judge or Magistrate Judge	Wayne R. Andersen	Sitting Judge if Other than Assigned Judge	
CASE NUMBER	1 C 6181	DATE	6/3/2003
CASE TITLE	Frank Marusiak vs. Adjustable Clamp Company		

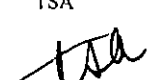
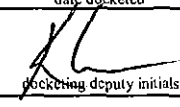
[In the following box (a) indicate the party filing the motion, e.g., plaintiff, defendant, 3rd party plaintiff, and (b) state briefly the nature of the motion being presented.]

MOTION:

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DOCKET ENTRY:

- (1) ☐ Filed motion of [use listing in "Motion" box above.]
- (2) ☐ Brief in support of motion due _____.
- (3) ☐ Answer brief to motion due _____. Reply to answer brief due _____.
- (4) ☐ Ruling/Hearing on _____ set for _____ at _____.
- (5) ☐ Status hearing[held/continued to] [set for/re-set for] on _____ set for _____ at _____.
- (6) ☐ Pretrial conference[held/continued to] [set for/re-set for] on _____ set for _____ at _____.
- (7) ☐ Trial[set for/re-set for] on _____ at _____.
- (8) ☐ [Bench/Jury trial] [Hearing] held/continued to _____ at _____.
- (9) ☐ This case is dismissed [with/without] prejudice and without costs[by/agreement/pursuant to]
☐ FRCP4(m) ☐ Local Rule 41.1 ☐ FRCP41(a)(1) ☐ FRCP41(a)(2).
- (10) ☒ [Other docket entry] We deny plaintiff's objection to Magistrate Judge Bobrick's November 13, 2002 order which denied plaintiff's motion to compel production of patent documents.
- (11) ☒ [For further detail see order attached to the original minute order.]

<input type="checkbox"/> No notices required, advised in open court. <input type="checkbox"/> No notices required. <input type="checkbox"/> Notices mailed by judge's staff. <input type="checkbox"/> Notified counsel by telephone. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Docketing to mail notices. <input type="checkbox"/> Mail AO 450 form. <input type="checkbox"/> Copy to judge/magistrate judge.	courtroom deputy's initials TSA 	U.S. DISTRICT COURT CLERK JUN 3 4 38 AM '03 FILED ED 10 Date/time received in central Clerk's Office	number of notices	Document Number 161
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			 docketing deputy initials	
			date mailed notice	
			mailing deputy initials	

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Wayne R. Andersen
District Judge

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contention that the legal opinions of defendant's patent counsel, Fred Lockwood, constitute business advice and are not entitled to the protection of the attorney-client privilege.

DISCUSSION

Magistrate Judge Bobrick's order is reviewed by this Court under the "clearly erroneous" or "contrary to law" standard. Fed.R.Civ.P. 72(a); 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A). The Seventh Circuit has explained the standard as follows:

The district court's view of any discovery-related decisions made by the magistrate judge is governed by Rule 72(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which provides: 'The district court to whom the case is assigned shall consider such objections and shall modify or set aside any portion of the magistrate judge's order found to be clearly erroneous or contrary to law.'

Fed.R.Civ.P. 72(a); *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). The clear error standard means that the district court can overturn the magistrate judge's ruling only if the district court is left with the definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been made. (Citations omitted).

In this case, whether plaintiff engaged in inequitable conduct before the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office ("PTO") depends on the truth and materiality of the representations which plaintiff and his attorney made to the PTO during the prosecution of the '820 patent. Defendant's assertion that plaintiff committed intentional fraud on defendant by submitting bogus drawings to defendant in lieu of the drawings which he actually filed with the PTO does not waive, expressly or impliedly, defendant's attorney-client privilege with respect to the legal opinions prepared by defendant's patent counsel.

For implied waiver to occur, "a party must affirmatively try to use the privileged communication to defend itself or attack its opponent." *Trustmark Ins. Co. v. General &*

Cologne, 2000WL 189858 (N.D. Ill. Dec. 20, 2000). In this case, as Magistrate Judge Bobrick noted:

There is no implied waiver of the attorney-client privilege in this case because the communications will not find their way into the litigation. The defendant Adjustable does not at all represent that it is going to use the communications between it and his lawyer in these proceedings in any way, shape or form to substantiate its affirmative defenses.

For these reasons, we find that the Magistrate Judge was correct in his finding that the defendant has not impliedly waived its attorney-client privilege.


Moreover, there is no evidence to suggest that attorney Lockwood's advice was business advice rather than legal advice. Lockwood's opinions are protected by the attorney-client privilege. They provide legal advice based on his review and study of a legal document in response to defendant's request for that legal advice. Plaintiff has offered no evidence to the contrary. While it is true that solely personal or business advice is not protected by the attorney-client privilege, legal advice relating to business matters clearly is. As the Court stated in *Weeks v. Samsung Heavy Industries, Ltd.*, 1996 WL 288511 at * 2 (N.D. Ill. May 30, 1996):

The case law is clear that the attorney-client privilege is not vitiated simply because the attorney has weighed business considerations in rendering legal advice. Courts have utilized the following test to distinguish legal from nonlegal advice: [A] matter committed to a professional legal adviser is prima facie so committed for the sake of legal advice . . . and is therefore within the privilege unless it appears to be lacking in aspects requiring legal advice.

For these reasons, we find that Magistrate Judge Bobrick's ruling rejecting plaintiff's "business advice" argument is correct.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, we deny plaintiff's objection to Magistrate Judge Bobrick's November 13, 2002 order which denied plaintiff's motion to compel production of patent documents.


Wayne R. Andersen
United States District Judge

Dated: June 3, 2003